District Level Committees on TV content

573. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Level Committees have been set up for receiving public complaints on TV content, reporting any risk to public order to State and Central Governments, monitoring content of local channels, and reviewing the action taken for enforcing the Cable Act;

(b) if so, whether the District Level Committees possess expertise and have mechanism to undertake the above functions; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that subjectivity at local level may not vitiate this objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) As per Section 2(a) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the District Magistrate or a Sub-Divisional Magistrate or a Commissioner of Police has been designated as "authorised officer' within his local limits of jurisdiction. Order for constitution of Monitoring Committee for Private Television Channels at the State and District level have been issued to enforce the provisions of the Act and Rules framed thereunder.

(b) and (c) In order to provide wider expertise, detailed guidelines have been issued including academicians, psychologists and sociologists in the District/State level Committees so as to obviate any subjectivity. These orders are available on the website of the Ministry *www.mib.nic.in* under the heading "Code & Guidelines", sub-head "Monitoring Committee for Private Television Channels".

TV channels offered by broadcasters

†574.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the general consumers have become solely dependent on the broadcasters in the present system of TV telecasting;

(b) if not, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that now only these channels are telecasted on TV which the broadcasters decide;

(d) if so, whether general consumers are not forced to watch those channels being confined to the above broadcasters;

(e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(f) the measures that would be taken by Government in order to bail out the general consumers from this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (f) No such study has been brought to the notice of the Government. The